

**Remarks**

Reconsideration of claims 1 and 3-14 is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the above-referenced claims, as now presented, are allowable over all references of record in the parent application. In particular, the cited van Bokhorst et al. reference previously cited by the Examiner does not disclose or suggest the ability of the various communication points to power up out of the sleep mode during random time intervals. The arrangement of van Bokhorst et al. utilizes a synchronization scheme and requires each communication point to remain in sync such that each device comes out of the sleep mode at the same time. This arrangement is problematic, as discussed in applicant's specification, in terms of the additional circuitry required, as well as the introduction of new devices into the locale. Alternatively, the arrangement of the present invention allows for the various communication points to come out of sleep mode at any time, and then wait a predetermined period of time to see if any other communication devices desire to communicate with the awakened device.

Based on this difference, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to review the amended claims and allow this continuation application to pass to issue. If for some reason or other the Examiner does not agree that the case is ready to issue and that an interview or telephone conversation would further the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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